



WELLINGTON (SOMERSET) RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1971

BY -

DR. HUGH MORRISON

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

AND

B. R. JAMES

M.R.S.H.

WELLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR
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Medical Officer of Health:-

HUGH MORRISON

MARY STREET HOUSE, TAUNTON, SOMERSET.

Telephone - Taunton 87275/6

Qualifications - M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Residence - 1, Staplegrove Manor, Taunton, Somerset.

Telephone - Taunton 3304

Public Health Inspector:-

B. R. JAMES

R.D.C. OFFICES, WELLESLEY PARK, WELLINGTON, SOM.

Telephone - Wellington 2333/4

Qualifications - Cert. P.H.I.E.B., M.R.S.H.
Cert. as Meat Inspector.

Residence - 74 Waterloo Road, Wellington, Somerset.

Telephone - Wellington 2076

Clerk to the Council:-

P. WITCHELL ORCHARD, D.P.A.

R.D.C. OFFICES, WELLESLEY PARK, WELLINGTON, SOM.

Telephone - Wellington 2333/4

Chairman of the Council:-

N. E. B. ELGAR, ESQ.

WOOLCOMBE, SAMPFORD ARUNDEL, WELLINGTON, SOMERSET.

Telephone - Greenham 581

Chairman of the Public Health Committee:-

MRS. E. M. WILLIAMS

ROSE COTTAGE, SAMPFORD ARUNDEL, WELLINGTON, SOMERSET.



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WELLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

1971

I. GENERAL

Area (in acres)	37,911
Estimate of Residential Population mid-year 1971...	8,260
Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Book on 31st December, 1971	2,949
Rateable Value, 31st December, 1971	£195,801
Sum Represented by a 1p Rate, 31st December, 1971..	£1,969.00

II. EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1971

1. Births.

(a) Live Births

	M.	F.	Total	
Legitimate	39	46	85	Crude birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 11.5
Illegitimate	5	5	10	
	44	51	95	

Standardised Birth Rate, Wellington R.D.	13.1
Birth Rate, England and Wales	16.0
Percentage Illegitimate of Total Live Births	11.0

(b) Still Births

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births -	Total	0
Wellington R.D.		0.0
England and Wales		12.0
Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population -		
Wellington R.D.		0.0

2. Deaths.

(a) <u>Total Deaths</u>	112
Crude Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	13.6
Standardised Death Rate, Wellington R.D.	11.2
Death Rate, England and Wales	11.6

(b) Maternal Mortality

Total Maternal Deaths from all causes	0
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(c) Infant Mortality

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age - Total	1
Death Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births -	
Wellington R.D.	11.0
England and Wales	18.0

(d) Deaths from Cancer (all ages)

Total	21
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CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1971

	M	F	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	-	1
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	-	3
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	4	1	5
Malignant neoplasm, larynx	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	1	-	1
Other malignant neoplasms	3	3	6
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	-	1	1
Leukemia, aleukemia	1	-	1
Diabetes Mellitus	-	1	1
Other endocrine diseases	1	1	2
Anaemias	-	1	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	-	3	3
Hypertensive disease	-	1	1
Ischaemic heart disease	11	11	22
Other forms of heart disease	1	1	2
Cerebrovascular disease	1	13	14
Other diseases of circulatory system	3	7	10
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	1	6	7
Bronchitis and Emphysema	4	1	5
Asthma	-	-	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	1	4
Intestinal obstruction and Hernia	-	-	-
Peptic Ulcer	-	2	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	-	1	1
Other diseases of digestive system	2	1	3
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	1	1	2
Diseases of skin, subcutaneous tissue	-	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital anomalies	1	-	1
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	-	-	-
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	-	4	4
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	-	1	1
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	2	-	2
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-

All causes - Total:

46	66	112
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INFANT MORTALITY DURING 1971

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1 - 4 weeks	1 - 6 months	6 - 12 months	Total under 1 yr.
Fibrocystic disease	-	1	-	-	1

III. COMMENT ON VITAL STATISTICS

The standardised rates for births and deaths are obtained by multiplying the crude rate in each case by a comparability factor for the district supplied by the Registrar General. This factor takes account of the age and sex distribution of the population, and when it has been applied direct comparisons can be made between different districts or between any particular district and the country as a whole. Thus the present figures show that the birth rate in Wellington Rural District was substantially lower than that of England and Wales during 1971, and the death rate also was fractionally lower.

When dealing with a relatively small population such as this, low numbers of births or deaths can sometimes give a misleading picture of the state of affairs. For example, one infant death has produced a rate of 11.0 per 1,000 live births, which compares very favourably with the rate of 18.0 per 1,000 for England and Wales; but if one other infant death had occurred the rate for Wellington would have been well above that for the country as a whole. However, it is good that in the present instance the deviation is in the right direction.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

DOMICILIARY SERVICES

(1) Medical and Nursing - There are four general medical practitioners living and carrying on practice in the rural district. Practitioners from Wellington and from neighbouring districts also cover some of the territory. There are adequate arrangements when required for domiciliary consultation with consultants serving the Taunton and West Somerset area and, speaking generally, the practice of medicine in the district is of a high standard. The provisions for domiciliary nursing are also satisfactory.

(2) Home Help Service - This service, formerly administered by the County Health Department, has now passed to the control of the County Social Services Department. The administrative change will not mean any diminution in the number of calls on the services of the Home-Helps or in the excellent work which they are carrying out; indeed the reverse may be the case. Health Visitors co-operate with Social Workers in the ascertainment of cases where help is required, and of course the local practitioners are also very much involved.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

The Hospital Services of the district are administered by the West Somerset Hospital Management Committee under the general direction of the

S.W. Regional Hospital Board. A detailed re-appraisal of these services is going on at the present time following on the production by the Government of a comprehensive Hospital Plan for the nation. Some of the provisions for the needs of various types of patients are detailed below.

(1) General Medical and Surgical

The main provision for hospital services for the area is made by the large general hospital at Musgrove Park in Taunton, which has a branch housing certain departments at East Reach. All medical conditions, apart from certain cases requiring treatment at specialised regional centres, are dealt with at this hospital.

A new Accident Centre was opened during 1968 in association with the East Reach Branch Hospital already mentioned.

Planning for the new District Hospital, in itself a complicated and laborious operation, has been going on steadily over the past year, but it will still be a number of years before the new hospital can be completed and brought into use. In the meantime various improvements have been made to the existing facilities at Musgrove Park and there is no doubt that a first class medical and nursing service is available to those living in the district.

Wellington Cottage Hospital provides valuable facilities for local cases not requiring to be sent to large institutions, and consultant cover is available for the work carried out there. Rumours were current at one stage that this Hospital and the Wellington Maternity Hospital might soon fall out of use but a firm assurance was forthcoming from the Regional Hospital Board that no such thing would take place without full consultation with all interested parties. A "watchdog" Committee drawn from those interested in and concerned with the functioning of these local hospitals has been set up to keep a close eye on the position.

(2) Chronic Sick

Since the appointment of a Geriatrician to the West Somerset Clinical Area, arrangements for hospital treatment of the chronic sick have been put on a more satisfactory basis. Most of these cases are admitted to Trinity Hospital in Taunton which is having many internal improvements carried out in order to raise it to the highest modern standards. There continues to be a very great pressure on accommodation of this type, and this is a branch of medical care which will undoubtedly make increasing demands on medical and ancillary services as the years go on. There is also severe pressure on Part III accommodation for elderly people not requiring actual nursing, especially on the female side.

There were no cases during the year in which compulsory removal to a Hospital or other Institution had to be carried out under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948. As seems to happen regularly every year, the circumstances of certain old people in the District had to be reviewed with this procedure in mind, but in each of these cases satisfactory arrangements for the time being were able to be made.

(3) Infectious Diseases

Cases of infectious diseases from Wellington Rural District are sent to the Isolation Hospital situated in the Borough of Taunton. The bulk of the Isolation Hospital work is done in cubicle blocks. The pattern of infectious

diseases requiring admission to hospital is changing. Many of the patients admitted suffer from vague pyrexial illnesses in which the diagnosis is in doubt. Scarlet Fever which used to provide a large proportion of the admissions is, at the present time, a relatively mild disease, and most of the cases are nursed at home. Measles and Whooping Cough still demand hospital treatment in the occasional case where there are severe complications or where home nursing is impracticable. Diphtheria has not been seen in the district for many years. Poliomyelitis has been practically banished by inoculation. Cases are, however, admitted to hospital on suspicion of suffering from poliomyelitis, and these often provide difficult diagnostic problems. The extensive use of antibiotics has resulted in the appearance of severe infections due to certain bacteria which were formerly regarded as fairly harmless, and this leads to the admission of cases of this kind to the Isolation Hospital.

Tuberculosis - Cases of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis come under the Regional Hospital Board for treatment, which is supervised by the Chest Physicians for the area.

Pulmonary cases requiring hospital treatment are admitted to sanatorium at Taunton. Non-Pulmonary cases are now becoming very uncommon, but when they do require hospital admission arrangements are made according to individual need.

(4) Mentally Sick and Mentally Handicapped

The modern trend is to treat cases of mental illness whenever possible in their own homes so that they may remain as members of the general community.

A Day Mental Hospital in Taunton performs a very useful function in this connection in enabling many patients to carry on at home who would otherwise require to have residential hospital care. When this type of care does prove necessary cases are admitted to Tone Vale Mental Hospital. The psychiatric specialists conduct out-patient clinics for the area, and it is felt that now, more than ever before, mental patients have a better outlook and are reaping the benefit of more successful methods of treatment at an earlier and more hopeful stage of their disease.

The same remarks as to care in the community rather than treatment in hospital apply to the modern outlook with regard to the problem of the mentally handicapped. A certain proportion of these people will always require devoted care in a sheltered environment but many more should be able to remain as members of the general community, particularly when more hostel accommodation becomes available for their use.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Tuberculosis:

Clinics for patients suffering from this disease, and for the supervision of suspects and contacts are held by the Chest Physicians at Musgrove Park Hospital. There is an After-Care Committee working in co-operation with these clinics. Mass Radiography has been carried out from time to time on various groups of the county population by a team working from a centre in Bristol, but this service has not been called upon to deal with residents in the Wellington Rural District.

Venereal Disease:

A combined clinic and treatment centre is carried on at Taunton and Somerset Hospital which caters for male and female patients of this and surrounding districts. These conditions which had for some years become rather uncommon in the district have been latterly showing a marked increase in prevalence; and this is in accordance with experience over the country as a whole. Gonorrhoea, one of the Venereal Diseases, is now the second most common infectious disease in the country, Measles being the commonest, and when Measles is brought under control by immunisation, Gonorrhoea is likely to take pride of place.

Maternity and Child Welfare:

The Maternity and Child Welfare Acts are administered by the County Council under whose supervision are also the Health Visitors and Midwives practising within the area. There is an excellent Maternity Home in the Urban District of Wellington to which a considerable number of women from the Rural District are admitted for confinement. Obstetric Consultants in Taunton are available for consultation with Medical Practitioners in the District. Abnormal and complicated cases can be admitted for hospital treatment when necessary. Every case of Puerperal Pyrexia and Maternal Mortality is investigated by the Medical Staff of the County Council.

A valuable service is now provided for premature infants. Small or premature babies unsuitable for nursing at home are admitted to a Special Care Unit at Musgrove Park Hospital, an ambulance equipped with an Oxygen-air incubator being sent to collect them from their homes. If the baby is deemed fit to be nursed at home, the district midwife can obtain advice and special equipment to help her with the management of the case.

Laboratory Facilities:

The Public Health Laboratory Service has a Laboratory in Taunton which undertakes the bacteriological examination of swabs, blood, faeces and sputum, etc. This service is available also to the doctors practising in the District. Bacteriological and chemical analyses are also undertaken for the examination of milk, foods, water supplies and sewage effluents, etc. The co-operation and assistance of the Public Health Laboratory Staff in investigating all types of bacteriological and epidemiological problems is of the greatest value.

Ambulance Facilities:

Ambulance transport for all cases is the responsibility of the Somerset County Council. The main Ambulance Station and Control for the south-west of the County is situated at the entrance to Musgrove Park Hospital. The Ambulance Station serves a very wide area and at the 31st December the establishment of vehicles and staff was as follows:-

<u>Vehicles</u>	-	7 Ambulances
		8 Sitting-case Ambulances
<u>Staff</u>	-	6 Sub-officers
		22 Driver-attendants
		4 Leading ambulancemen

All vehicles at this Station are fitted with two-way radio.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Acute Infectious Diseases

The following table gives the number of notifications received for the various notifiable diseases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1971

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Number of cases notified</u>
Measles	3
Food Poisoning	1
Pulmonary T.B.	1
Non-Pulmonary T.B.	1

IMMUNISATION

This is one of the most important activities in the field of preventive medicine, and it has been thought worthwhile to insert the most recent schedule of recommended procedures together with brief notes on the diseases against which immunisation is aimed. There have been two recent developments. In the first place infant vaccination against smallpox has ceased to be recommended for routine use because, owing to the decreased prevalence of the disease, the risk of the average individual falling victim to it in this country is now outweighed by the risk of untoward reactions following vaccination in young children. It will still be advisable for those at special risk from their occupation, or because they intend to travel to infected areas, to have vaccination carried out. The second development is that immunisation against German Measles, otherwise known as Rubella, is now being offered as a routine to girls between the ages of eleven and thirteen.

<u>AGE</u>	<u>VACCINE</u>
4 months	First diphtheria/whooping cough/tetanus and oral polio vaccine.
6 months	Second diphtheria/ whooping cough/tetanus and oral polio vaccine
12 months	Third diphtheria/whooping cough/tetanus and oral polio vaccine.
13 months - 2 years	Measles Vaccination.
4½ years	Diphtheria/tetanus (no whooping cough) and oral polio vaccine.
Over 11 years	B.C.G.
11 - 13 years	German Measles Immunisation (girls only).
14½ years	Oral polio vaccine. Tetanus toxoid.

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Diphtheria

Immunisation against diphtheria was the first mass campaign of protection against infectious disease carried out in this country, apart from vaccination against smallpox which had never been applied to such a wide extent. The result is that, whereas there used to be thousands of deaths from diphtheria each year in England and Wales, the mortality is now almost down to vanishing point. It is necessary for the percentage of protected children in the community to be kept high in order to avoid the recurrence of outbreaks.

Whooping Cough

This is now probably the most generally disabling of the common infectious diseases affecting young children. There are risks to life, especially in infants, and lung complications can be severe and prolonged. Immunisation is preventive in a good proportion of cases and in the remainder modifies the disease to produce a mild attack.

Tetanus

This is an uncommon infection in this country but important because of its very severe character and the high rate of mortality in those affected. It is much commoner in some of the less developed parts of the world, and even in Europe at least 26,000 have died from this cause in the past ten years. Immunisation gives the practical certainty of complete protection.

Poliomyelitis

It is hardly necessary to stress the misery which can result from this disease in view of the widespread epidemics which have occurred in this country within recent memory. Many of the sufferers die, and others are left with a lifetime of disablement. Immunisation is now simple with the use of vaccine given by mouth and has been largely responsible for the virtual elimination of poliomyelitis as a serious epidemic risk in this country at the present time. Here again it is essential that a high proportion of children continue to be immunised in order to avoid the danger of further outbreaks.

Measles

This has always been a very common infection among children, with far from negligible risks to those in the younger age groups especially. Immunisation is now being carried out against this disease and it is hoped that widespread outbreaks will, in time, become a thing of the past.

German Measles

Immunisation against German Measles is now being offered and encouraged for girls between the ages of 11 and 13 years. This is an effort to avoid the risks of congenital defects in children born to mothers who suffer from an attack of German Measles during the early stages of pregnancy.

Tuberculosis

One of the most dramatic improvements in the state of the national health has been the enormous fall over the period since the last war, in the prevalence of tuberculosis and in the number of deaths which it causes. There are

many factors responsible for this gratifying development, and one of them undoubtedly is the beneficial effect of the widespread campaign of immunisation with B.C.G. which has been carried out. The required injection is given after the age of 11 years after preliminary skin testing, to determine which children are susceptible to an attack of the disease.

82 children attending school in the Wellington Rural District were given the Heaf Test and 75 were given B.C.G. Vaccination.

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SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The public water supplies of the district are now under the control of the West Somerset Water Board, of whose area Wellington Rural District forms one portion. The service provided by the Board is proving very satisfactory and it is the experience of this Public Health Department that any complaints which arise and any defects which come to light are given very prompt attention and matters are quickly set to rights.

During the year 1971 there were no serious shortages and ample supplies were maintained to all consumers in the area. Bacteriological and chemical sampling, which are carried out by the Board's technical staff, show that the supply has been safe and satisfactory. A series of 14 bacteriological samples of treated water all showed satisfactory results. 16 chemical samples were examined and these also showed satisfactory results. Additional checks are made from time to time by this department and all of these produced satisfactory results.

The number of properties dependent on wells and private supplies form a relatively small proportion of dwelling houses in the district. These are tested regularly and a summary of the test findings is included in the Public Health Inspector's Report. The proportion of properties on the public water supply is increasing steadily as new houses come into occupation.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The drainage and sewage disposal in the various parishes of the district is set out in the Public Health Inspector's Report as it existed at the end of 1971. The enlargement of the works at Milverton, drainage arrangements at Sampford Arundel and sewerage of Holywell Lake are regarded as urgent matters. The drainage of Hillfarrance was also in need of urgent attention; there were prospects that this would be put in hand during 1972. Engineering schemes for all these localities have been deposited with the Ministry and approval was awaited at the end of the year. A scheme to pump sewage from West Buckland to the Bradford system was under construction at the end of 1971, thereby dispensing with the inadequate existing works at West Buckland.

The remainder of the district is dependent on septic tanks and a diminishing number of pail closets. Public Health and amenity demand improved sewerage provisions and this need grows particularly urgent when main water supplies become widely distributed.

There is an increasing demand for a septic tank and cesspool emptying service to be operated by the Council.

Public Cleansing

Household refuse is collected weekly from Wiveliscombe and Milverton and fortnightly from the rest of the district and it is disposed of by controlled tipping.

The arguments for carrying out a weekly refuse collection in the Rural District have been set out in previous reports and need not be repeated. Consideration was given by the Council to bringing this into operation and it was hoped that this service would be available sometime in 1972.

Housing

During 1971 building work was commenced in six flats at Langley Marsh. The Council are considering acquiring sites for further building.

Three houses previously closed were reconstructed and rendered fit for habitation, one house was dealt with by a Closing Order and seven houses were demolished.

There is still a need for council house provision - this applies particularly to old and disabled people, a number of whom have been on the housing list for some considerable time. Efforts are constantly being made to arrange exchanges with a view to providing more suitable accommodation for individual tenants.

The number of Improvement Grants applied for was rather lower than that for the previous year. During 1971 eighteen Improvement Grants in respect of nineteen dwellings and five Standard Grants were received and approved.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT
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Schemes commenced or completed during the year

Council Housing:

Six flats at Langley Marsh were under construction at the end of the year.

Sewerage:

The sewer connecting the West Buckland system to that at Bradford-on-Tone was under construction at the end of the year.

WATER SUPPLY

Public supplies are under the control of the West Somerset Water Board.

Outlying parts of the following Parishes are served by small private supplies, wells and springs :-

Ashbottle	Stawley
Bathealton	Thorne St. Margaret
Chipstable	Wellington Without
Langford Budville	Wiveliscombe Without

PIPED SUPPLIES

Results of Samples taken for analysis and Bacteriological Examination

RAW WATER

TREATED WATER

BACTERIOLOGICAL

CHEMICAL

BACTERIOLOGICAL

CHEMICAL

<u>Sat.</u>	<u>Unsat.</u>	<u>Sat.</u>	<u>Unsat.</u>	<u>Sat.</u>	<u>Unsat.</u>	<u>Sat.</u>	<u>Unsat.</u>
14	9	1	-	30	-	1	-

None of the supplies is known to have plumbo-solvent action.

WELL WATER:

SATISFACTORY

UNSATISFACTORY

BACTERIOLOGICAL

CHEMICAL

BACTERIOLOGICAL

CHEMICAL

4	-	-	1
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WATER SUPPLIES FROM PUBLIC MAINS :

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Number of houses supplied direct</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Number of houses Supplied by standpipes</u>	<u>Population</u>
ASHBRITTLE	45	134	-	-
BATHEALTON	20	41	-	-
BRADFORD-ON-TONE	198	642	-	-
CHIPSTABLE	36	109	-	-
FITZHEAD	76	227	-	-
LANGFORD BUDVILLE	123	357	-	-
MILVERTON	520	1561	-	-
NYNEHEAD	85	251	-	-
OAKE	181	451	-	-
SAMPFORD ARUNDEL	109	320	-	-
STAWLEY	60	175	-	-
THORNE ST. MARGARET	18	49	-	-
WELLINGTON WITHOUT	134	360	-	-
WEST BUCKLAND	277	811	-	-
WIVELISCOMBE	471	1514	-	-
WIVELISCOMBE WITHOUT	204	615	-	-
	2557	7617	-	-

The following summary shows, in alphabetical order, the present water supplies in the District by Parishes, giving their acreage and the number of dwellings.

ASHBRITTLE: 2,158 acres 66 inhabited dwellings
The village and immediate surroundings are served by the S. W. Parishes Supply. Outlying properties have private springs and wells.

BATHEALTON: 2,598 acres 58 inhabited dwellings
Village supplied by N. & C. Parishes Supply, outlying properties have wells and springs.

BRADFORD: 1,814 acres 215 inhabited dwellings
Piped supply through Parish from Taunton Area Supply.

CHIPSTABLE: 3,455 acres 89 inhabited dwellings
Chipstable Village
Water from a borehole constructed in 1962 supplies the village. This supply is satisfactory and adequate.
Waterrow Village
Spring supply laid on to most of the properties in the village. The water is chlorinated. Remainder of Parish - wells and springs.

FITZHEAD: 1,247 acres 76 inhabited dwellings
Piped supply from Taunton mains. Most of the houses are supplied from this main.

LANGFORD BUDVILLE: 2,234 acres 151 inhabited dwellings
Main supply to the village and to Wellisford, Bindon and Runnington. The Chipley area is served by a satisfactory private supply.

MLIVERTON: 3,465 acres 520 inhabited dwellings
Main supply. The Olands bore is retained in case of emergency.

NYNEHEAD: 1,706 acres 94 inhabited dwellings
Piped supply from the N. & C. Parishes Supply.

OAKE: 1,754 acres 210 inhabited dwellings
Main supply serves most of the Parish.

SAMPFORD ARUNDEL: 1,216 acres 116 inhabited dwellings
Main supply to the village, Sampford Moor and White Ball.

STAWLEY: 2,663 acres 80 inhabited dwellings
Main supply to Tracebridge, Appley, Greenham, Stawley and Kittisford, the remainder by wells and springs.

THORNE ST. MARGARET: 324 acres 28 inhabited dwellings
The village is now supplied from the main. Outlying premises are supplied by springs and wells.

WELLINGTON WITHOUT: 2,933 acres 176 inhabited dwellings
Main supply to Holywell Lake, Ford Street, Voxmoor and Wrangway.
Remainder of Parish from springs and wells.

WEST BUCKLAND: 3,739 acres 305 inhabited dwellings
The whole Parish (except for a few outlying properties) is supplied
from the main.

WIVELISCOMBE: 201 acres 475 inhabited dwellings
Piped supply from the main. The borehole is retained for use in
emergency.

WIVELISCOMBE WITHOUT: 5,904 acres 290 inhabited dwellings
Langley, Langley Marsh, Maundown, Ford and Croford are supplied
from the main.
The Nunnington Park area has private wells and springs, some of
which are unsatisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

- ASHBRITTLE: 2,158 acres 66 inhabited dwellings
A sewer serving the centre of the village takes waste and surface water only. Eight Council houses are drained to a septic tank and filter. The compact nature of the village makes the provision of a sewerage scheme desirable.
- BATHEALTON: 2,598 acres 58 inhabited dwellings
Three Council houses drain to a septic tank and filter and there are some privately owned septic tanks. Other houses have waste water drains to ditches and earth closets.
- BRADFORD: 1,814 acres 215 inhabited dwellings
The sewerage scheme serves the whole Parish (except Hele and a few other properties) as well as Hockaller, Ham and Chelston in the Parish of West Buckland. Most houses are now connected.
- CHIPSTABLE: 3,455 acres 89 inhabited dwellings
A small sewer in the centre of the village takes waste water only. A number of properties including eight Council houses drain to septic tanks but there are still some earth closets. Some Properties at Waterrow drain to the River Tone but there is little nuisance on account of heavy dilution with river water.
- FITZHEAD: 1,247 acres 76 inhabited dwellings
Most of the properties in the village have been connected to the sewers.
- LANGFORD BUDVILLE: 2,234 acres 151 inhabited dwellings
Most properties in the village are connected to the main sewerage system. Small sewers at Runnington have no proper disposal works. Properties at Chipley, Bindon and Wellisford drain to septic tanks and conditions are reasonably satisfactory.
- MILVERTON: 3,465 acres 520 inhabited dwellings
Except for some outlying properties, all premises in Milverton and Preston area are connected to the sewerage system. The disposal works consist of primary and secondary settlement tanks and bacteria beds. These are working to full capacity and until they are enlarged no further development is possible. A scheme for enlarging the disposal works and for the provision of a surface water sewer has been prepared.
- NYNEHEAD: 1,706 acres 94 inhabited dwellings
Most properties in Higher and Lower Nynhead are connected to the sewerage system with adequate disposal works.
- OAKE: 1,754 acres 210 inhabited dwellings
Oake Village is served by sewers and sewage disposal works but these have become overloaded. Properties at Hillcommon and Hillfarrance drain mainly to septic tanks. A scheme to provide sewers at Hillfarrance and to pump the sewage to the Bradford works is awaiting Ministry approval. The need for this scheme is very urgent.

SAMPFORD ARUNDEL: 1,216 acres 116 inhabited dwellings
There are small sewers at Sampford Moor, Sampford Village, Beam Bridge and White Ball and the discharges from these and other individual properties cause nuisances.

The Council houses and a few other properties, including the school, drain to septic tanks with filters. A sewerage scheme prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers is still under consideration by the Ministry but has not yet been approved.

STAWLEY: 2,663 acres 80 inhabited dwellings
The School and four Council houses at Appley drain to a septic tank and filter. All other houses have separate drainage arrangements to septic tanks etc. There are some pail closets.

THORNE ST. MARGARET: 824 acres 28 inhabited dwellings
Most of the houses drain to septic tanks.

WELLINGTON WITHOUT: 2,933 acres 176 inhabited dwellings
Holywell Lake has a sewer and "temporary" disposal works. These works were constructed more than twenty years ago. The Council's proposals for new disposal works and sewer extension are still under consideration.
Wrangway and Ford Street
Most of the houses drain to septic tanks.
Other outlying properties have individual disposal arrangements by septic tanks etc.

WEST BUCKLAND: 3,739 acres 305 inhabited dwellings
Most of the houses in West Buckland Village are connected to the public sewer. The disposal works are overloaded and a scheme has been prepared to connect the sewage to the Bradford system. Houses at Ham, Chelston, Hockaller and Willowbrook are already connected to the Bradford sewerage scheme. Houses at Poole drain to the river causing some pollution. There are some drainage difficulties at Sawyers Hill and this area needs to be sewered.
The more remote properties have separate drainage arrangements.

WIVELISCOMBE: 201 acres 475 inhabited dwellings
All properties are connected to the sewers, most of which have been re-laid. There are disposal plants consisting of settlement tanks, bacteria beds etc. at Style and Hillsmoor. The Hillsmoor works deals with a large quantity of trade drainage from a poultry processing plant.

WIVELISCOMBE WITHOUT: 5,904 acres 290 inhabited dwellings
Houses at Langley and Langley Marsh are connected to a public sewer which discharges into the Style disposal works.
Four Council houses at Croford drain to a septic tank and filter.
Most other houses have septic tanks but there are some pail closets.

DRAINAGE

The disposal of contents of septic tanks and cesspools is becoming more difficult owing to the fact that septic tanks appear to require more frequent emptying than in the past.

The provision of facilities for the disposal of this material at one or more of the larger disposal works is to be made.

One notice under the Public Health (Recurring Nuisances) Act was served prohibiting the emptying of sewage on certain fields.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse collections are made as follows :-

Milverton and Wiveliscombe	-	Weekly
Remainder of District	-	Fortnightly

Disposal is by controlled tipping and conditions have remained satisfactory during the year.

There appears to be an increasing demand for more frequent collections from built-up areas and some other premises which have a fortnightly collection only.

SCHOOLS

All the schools in the district have mains water and drainage is connected to public sewers except at Sampford Arundel and Stawley where it is connected to drainage systems serving Council houses.

SWIMMING BATH

The bath at Wiveliscombe is now equipped with a circulating and chlorinating plant. Regular tests for residual chlorine and bacteriological reports were satisfactory.

HIGHWAY LAY-BYS

The public conveniences on the Trunk Road A 38 at Chelston were well used throughout the year.

The need for similar provision at a suitable point on the A 361 is apparent.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

The following are details of inspections made during the year :-

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(I) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	13	29	-	-
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	28	48	1	-
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	41	77	1	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

2. Cases in which Defects were found.					
Particulars	Number of cases in which defects found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-workers)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	1	-	-	-	-

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

Number and nature of inspections during the year 1971 :-

(a) Dwellinghouses.....	1040
(b) Food Premises.....	488
(c) Factories etc.....	68
(d) Water Supplies.....	86
(e) Drainage.....	289
(f) Moveable Dwellings.....	65
(g) Swimming Bath.....	26
(h) Miscellaneous.....	119
	<u>2181</u>

Number of Notices served during the year :-

Informal Notices.....	47
Statutory Notices.....	4

Result of service of Notices :-

Total Notices complied with.....	42
Notices standing over at the end of 1971.....	11

Camping Sites - Licences in force authoring the use of a site for moveable dwellings.....	1
- Licences issued by the Council authorising the use of moveable dwellings.....	10

Smoke Abatement - Complaints of nuisance dealt with and abatement secured.....	-
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Wiveliscombe Swimming Bath

Samples taken for bacteriological examination.....	10
Samples found to be satisfactory.....	9
Samples found to be slightly unsatisfactory.....	1

Offensive Trades - Number of offensive trades in the District within the meaning of Section 17 of the Public Health Act 1936.....	-
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Water - Samples of piped supplies examined during the year..	41
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Bakehouses - Number of inspections of the two bakehouses in the District.....	12
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Both the bakehouses draw their water supply from public mains.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS

1. Number of food premises in the area.....	72
2. Number of food premises registered under Section 15 -	
(a) For the sale of ice cream.....	39
(b) For the preparation of other food.....	5
3. Number of inspections of registered food premises.....	78
4. Number of premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16.....	50
5. Number of premises to which Reg. 19 applies.....	33
6. Number of premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19.....	33

The food premises are in the following categories of trade :-

Grocers	8
Butchers	4
General Stores	23
Bakeries	2
Confectioners	2
Hotels and Inns	21
Cafes	9
Poultry Packers	<u>2</u>
	<u>71</u>

Inspections have continued during the year and the general standard of food premises is satisfactory.

MEAT

There are two licenced slaughterhouses in the district and one of these is in regular use. Regular inspections are carried out. Details of inspections and condemnations are as follows :-

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	352	37	26	1845	740
All diseases except Tuberculosis -					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	15	5	2	8	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	4.5	13.5	7.7	0.4	0.5
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.13
Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for:-					
(a) Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	12
(b) Other	417	38	28	5	18
Total (in lbs.) condemned	417	38	28	5	30

All condemned meat is stained or sterilised in accordance with the Ministry's recommendations.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

The two slaughterhouses are used by four retail butchers in the area. The appointed day under the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) and (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations was January 1st 1962.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

One case of food poisoning was reported. This case, concerning a male person, was investigated and found to be due to Salmonellae infection. The probable source was not in this area.

Tuberculosis Order 1925

Cows slaughtered during the year under this Order Nil

POULTRY INSPECTION

1. Number of poultry processing premises in the District	1
2. Number of visits to these premises	80
3. Total number of birds processed during the year	3,002,557
4. Type of bird processed	Broilers
5. Percentage rejected as unfit for human consumption	0.8
6. Weight of poultry rejected as unfit (lbs.)	48,000

The factory operates a "spotter" system at various points on the killing and evisceration line etc. Check inspections of carcasses and offal are carried out during inspections of the factory which are as frequent as possible.

Water is obtained from a private supply and is chlorinated.

Chlorination is boosted by drip feeds into the washer and chiller tanks. Samples of water taken from the inlet to the washer tank and the outlet of the chiller tanks are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for Salmonellae. All reports were negative.

In accordance with Sect. 91 Food & Drugs Act 1955, sample carcasses have also been submitted for Salmonella investigation. All have been reported 'negative'.

Instructions for thawing and cooking are printed on the wrapping of each bird.

Council Houses

The following table shows the Parishes in which the Council have erected houses under the various Acts :-

Parish	Address	No. of houses	Total for Parish	Total No. of occupants
<u>ASHBRITTLE</u>	Rectory Road	8	8	29
<u>BATHEALTON</u>	Avis Cottages	3	3	12
<u>BRADFORD-ON-TONE</u>	Regents Green	4		
	Tone Green	8	12	38
<u>CHIPSTABLE</u>	Miltons	4		
	Bouchers, Waterrow	4	8	31
<u>FITZHEAD</u>	Church Road	8		
	Hills Cottages	6	14	35
<u>LANGFORD BUDVILLE</u>	Reynolds	6		
	Swifts	28	34	106
<u>MILVERTON</u>	Lower Fairfield	8		
	Fairfield Terrace	8		
	Newfield	4		
	Courtfield	40		
	Houndsmoor	4		
	Doltons	2		
	Torrells, Hillcommon	4		
	Ashford Close	8		
	Creedwell Orchard	74	152	421
<u>NYNEHEAD</u>	Farthings Close	16	16	46
<u>OAKE</u>	Bridge Cottages	4		
	Oake Close	37		
	Oake Acres	6	47	143
<u>SALFORD ARUNDEL</u>	Br	6		
	Weekes Meadow	8		
	Gorlegg	4	18	45
<u>STAWLEY</u>	Appley Cross	4	4	17
<u>WELLINGTON W'OUT</u>	Lake Cottages, H. Lake	4		
	Corams	4	8	28
<u>WEST BUCKLAND</u>	Sawyers Hill	4		
	Holway Cottages	4		
	Budgetts Cross	8		
	Castle Cottages, Ham	26		
	Crown Hill	10		
	Frogs Lane	8	60	195
<u>WIVELISCOMBE</u>	Northgate	53		
	Plain Pond (partly in Wiveliscombe W'out)	72		
	Southgate	28		
	Stockers Close	16		
	Style Road	10	179	570
<u>WIVELISCOMBE</u>	Allenslade Flats	8		
<u>W'OUT</u>	Croford	4		
	Langley Cross	14		
	Langley Marsh	4	30	91
	Totals		593	1807

Council tenants are responsible for the internal maintenance of their houses. The number of unsatisfactorily maintained houses in 1971 was 35.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

Rodent control is carried out by a servicing company under an annual contract. During the year the sewage disposal works and refuse dump were treated systematically. Private dwellinghouses and business premises were also treated following complaints or where infestations were found by the operator.

Attention has been paid to highway lay-bys and surrounding land which are the cause of complaints of infestation as well as of nuisance.

Following is the report on inspections and treatments as submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food.

<u>Properties other than sewers</u>	<u>Non-agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
1. Number of properties in district	3440	320
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification.	45	-
(b) Number infested by (I) Rats	35	-
(II) Mice	11	-
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	30	108
(b) Number infested by (I) Rats	8	26
(II) Mice	-	5

All sewerage systems were test baited and found to be free of infestation.

HOUSING

One house condemned before the war was still occupied at the end of the year.

(1) The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation	7
(2) The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers... ..	36
(3) The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to (a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works or (b) the making of demolition or closing orders	1
(4) The number of formal notices served requiring the execution of works	1
(5) The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice	3
(6) The number of demolition or closing orders made ...	1
(7) The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under subsection (4) of Section 16 of the Housing Act 1957	-
(8) The number of houses demolished	7

Langford Budville Common - Byelaws under the Commons Act 1899 are in force.
No action was necessary during the year.

Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order :-

The Council are now responsible for the enforcement of this order, under which nine persons are licenced. The premises have been inspected for compliance with the Order and for the detection of rodent infestation and have been found to be reasonably satisfactory.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

The following schedule shows the number of premises registered at the end of the year with the number of employees and inspections.

	Premises Registered	Employees	Inspected
Offices	21	57	17
Retail Shops	25	89	20
Wholesale Depots and Warehouses	4	9	3
Catering Establishments	7	28	7
Fuel Storage Depots	1	3	1

No additional registration was made. As far as is known all premises to which the Act applies have now been registered.

The small number of deletions relate to premises which have closed and cases where the number of employees has been reduced.

The standard of working conditions has been maintained.

Mechanised handling of goods in warehouses has presented no problems. Comparatively few slicing machines are used. No accidents were reported and no prosecutions undertaken.

WORLD PLOUGHING CONTEST

During the year this contest, which attracted entrants and visitors from a number of countries, was held at Nynehead.

Various matters including sanitary accommodation, food hygiene and refuse disposal were discussed and agreed with the organisers, during the preceding months.

Owing to lack of sewerage facilities on the site all sanitary and drainage arrangements had to be improvised. Sanitary accommodation, using trenches and drainage to temporary cesspools with a daily emptying service, proved to be reasonably satisfactory and in spite of the very warm weather there were no nuisances.

Food hygiene standards were well maintained.

Legislation appears to be necessary requiring organisers of events of this sort to supply the Local Authority with full details of their proposals some months ahead of the opening date.

